



News Release

**U.S. General Services Administration
Northeast & Caribbean Region**

**GSA R2-07-104
For Immediate Release**

Plans Begin to Move Forward for New Buffalo U.S. Courthouse

(NEW YORK – March 23, 2007) U.S. General Services Administration announced today that, with the recent funding approved for the new Buffalo federal courthouse, the federal government is preparing the final plans to clear an already partially vacant block at the northwest corner of the Niagara Square site for the construction of the new courthouse.

“The funding of this project brings us yet another step closer to completing this significant new courthouse for the citizens of Buffalo and for our client, the federal judiciary” said GSA Regional Administrator Emily Baker. “GSA is proud of its record of support for Buffalo. This more than \$100 million investment is the largest GSA project in Buffalo’s history and we are pleased that, as this project continues to move forward, it will generate many additional benefits for the city, local businesses, and its people. We are also very grateful for the support Buffalo’s local and federal elected officials have demonstrated for this project.”

As soon as the contract option for demolition is exercised, which is anticipated in the very near future, GSA’s contractor, Seebald & Associates, LLC, will submit a finalized demolition plan outlining how work will proceed on the site. Once actual demolition begins, the work should take approximately 5 months.

In preparation for the construction, GSA’s contractor for the job, Mascaro Construction Company, LP of Pittsburgh, PA, recently announced plans to hold two pre-bid conferences in Buffalo as it reaches out for subcontractors and suppliers to participate in the project. These conferences, to be held at the Adams Mark Hotel on March 27th and April 3rd, will help Mascaro support the federal government’s goals of participation by small, disadvantaged, woman-owned, service-disabled veteran-owned and HUBZone small businesses in the project. Mascaro hopes to subcontract at least 40% of the contract to small businesses. More information on these conferences can be obtained by calling Mascaro at (412)321-4901.

While awaiting funding GSA had been able to continue with remediation work at the site as well as complete efforts to meet the requirements established under a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) with the State Historic Preservation Office and the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation. In fulfillment of MOA responsibilities, GSA has documented both the Balcom-Chandler House and the Lawley Buildings; completed archaeological data recovery field work; and solicited offers for the transfer of ownership and relocation of the

Balcom-Chandler House, of which no offers were received. In addition, GSA has given the City of Buffalo the opportunity to select architectural elements from the Erlanger Building for curation and public education.

Buffalo's new federal courthouse will be a 10-story building, 265,000 square foot building located on approximately 1 $\frac{3}{4}$ acres on the northwest corner of Niagara Square. Designed by the architectural firm of Kohn Pedersen Fox of New York, it will provide the courts with 9 new courtrooms and 11 chambers, as well as 54 enclosed parking spaces.

The new U.S. Courthouse on Niagara Square continues GSA's commitment to the city of Buffalo. The Federal Government occupies close to 1 million square feet of space in downtown Buffalo housing over 2,500 employees in the existing Dillon Courthouse as well as a number of leases. During the past several years new buildings have been constructed downtown to accommodate space needs for many of the federal agencies relocated from the former Dulski federal building which was sold for \$6.1 million last fall. This has not only added to the Buffalo tax rolls, but has also provided economic stimulus for future growth. In all, GSA has added approximately \$10 million in additional rentals to downtown Buffalo.

-30-

Founded in 1949, GSA serves as a centralized procurement and property management agency for the federal government. GSA manages more than one-fourth of the government's total procurement dollars and influences the management of \$500 billion in federal assets, including 8,300 government-owned or leased buildings and 170,000 vehicles. GSA helps preserve our past and define our future, as a steward of more than 420 historic properties, and as manager of **USA.gov**, the official portal to federal government information and services. GSA's mission to provide superior workplaces, expert technology solutions, acquisition services, purchasing and e-travel solutions and management policies, at best value, allows federal agencies to focus on their core missions.

Contact: Renee Miscione (212) 264-8260
 renee.miscione@gsa.gov